

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, ECON, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO STUDY OF ECONOMIC ISSUES

REF: A) STATE 12084

B) USNATO 304

C) STATE 18074

D) USNATO 2001

E) USNATO 2148

F) USNATO 2153

1. AFTER FINAL REVIEW WHICH RESULTED IN MINOR WORDING CHANGES, ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 18 APPROVED STUDY ON SECURITY AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ECONOMIC SITUATION FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SPC. BY INITIATING STUDY AND PROVIDING PAPER WITH PRELIMINARY US VIEWS AS BASIS FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, US HAS ELICITED PARTICIPATION BY ALL ALLIES IN DISCUSSION OF ISSUES INVOLVED. DELIBERATIONS THUS FAR HAVE SHOWN THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC TRENDS AND REMARKABLE CONCURRENCE ON IMPLICATIONS FOR ALLIANCE. FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN SPC SHOULD DRAW OUT ADDITIONAL ALLIED VIEWS ON SECURITY AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT SPC DELIBERATIONS WILL BE COMPLETED IN TIME TO HAVE STUDY RIPE FOR DISCUSSION BY REINFORCED NAC PRIOR TO MAY NATO MINISTERIAL AND SUMMIT MEETINGS. HOWEVER, SINCE HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS WILL LIKELY

EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MOST PRESSING ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING THE ALLIANCE, LATER DISCUSSION IN NAC REINFORCED BY POLITICAL DIRECTORS OR OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS FROM CAPITALS WOULD BE USEFUL FOLLOW-ON AND GOOD PRECEDENT FOR ALLIANCE STUDY OF ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SECURITY ON AN ONGOING BASIS AND AT A HIGH LEVEL. GIVEN IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC FACTORS TO COHESION AND SECURITY OF ALLIANCE, MISSION SUGGESTS US MIGHT PROPOSE IN DUE COURSE THAT ALLIED POLITICAL/STRATEGIC POLICY OFFICIALS MEET IN BRUSSELS AFTER MAY TO DISCUSS IN MORE DETAIL ECONOMIC ISSUES THAT MAY BE RAISED BY HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS, AGAINST BACKGROUND OF US INITIATED NATO STUDY.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, EVEN THOUGH SPC WILL STILL BE EXCHANGING VIEWS ON STUDY, IT CAN ALSO SERVE AS USEFUL REFERENCE DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC MATTERS RELATING TO DEFENSE AT DPC MINISTERIAL, AS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED BY IS.BRUCE

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